94. Certain matters connected with the working of the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation.

Mr. S. Bhaskaran Moothathu, B. A. (Member, T. I. C., Haripad) said that, by virtue of Section 33 of the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, the Town Improvement Committees had occupancy rights over all the streets within the towns, and they were responsible for keeping them enclosed and in a wholesome condition. The word "street," as defined in Regulation III of 1076 amended by Regulation V of 1085, included also *porambokes*. At present, some of the *porambokes*, such as premises of temples, Sirkar schools, Cutcherries, &c., were under the Revenue Department, and the produce of the trees on such lands was credited to the head of land revenue. The Committees had no control over such *porambokes*. Further, the produce of certain lands, which belonged to the Committees, went to other departments, and the sale proceeds of any fallen trees on such lands were appropriated by the Committee or the Revenue Department or the P. W. D., whoever happened to see the trees first. The Member therefore suggested that the definition of the word 'street' should be amended and the jurisdiction of the various departments as regards *porambokes* and the produce thereon clearly defined.

The Member next said that the maintenance of roads, canals, tanks and wells within the towns had now been entrusted to the P. W. D. He proposed that the Committees should be entrusted with the maintenance of the streets, canals, roads &c. and the allotment sanctioned for the purpose also made over to them. The present procedure for prosecuting cases of encroachment on *porambokes* was very elaborate and the cases dragged on to two or three years before final disposal. It was partly due to the fact that the *porambokes* had not been properly measured. He therefore suggested that, in the resurvey of the town, the *pakuthi* Accountant and the Taluk Surveyor be directed to work in the presence of a member of the Committee or the Conservancy Overseer and to supply the Committee with weekly returns of the work done, together with a copy of the measurement book, taking particular care to renew or repair the boundary marks on the ground immediately.

Lastly, the Member said that the power to order removal of encroachments after the cases were disposed of now vested with the Division Peishkar. That caused unnecessary delay. The Member suggested that the Presidents of towns should be invested with the power of a Division Peishkar under Regulation II of 1067.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

95. The need for the improvement of the roads and canals within the town of Thiruvalla.

Mr. K. M. Mammen Mappillay (Member, T. I. C., Thiruvalla) first referred to the Market canal, for the construction of which an estimate had been recently sanctioned. In regard to the alignment of the canal, he feared that the Public Works Department were taking a wrong line by the Lappalam bridge. A good portion of the amount sanctioned for the work would probably be required for raising the bridge. The line suggested by the Committee was much shorter and less expensive. He requested that the matter might be looked into.

In regard to the roads, he said that the Committee had already submitted a list of them and had also interviewed the Dewan in deputation. The Committee only asked for eight miles of road, and he requested that at least two miles of road should be insisted on being done every year.

In that connection, the Member suggested that the maintenance of the village roads, now entrusted to the P. W. D., was not being properly done. If the allotment was transferred to the Committee, the latter would convert them gradually into good cartable roads. He mentioned that as a general question.

Dewan.—I think that the question of roads within the T. I. C. towns should be dealt with as a general question. Leaving the main lines of communication with the

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P. W. D., it would certainly be a good thing to make over the bye-paths &c., to the Committees for maintenance.

Member.—I too mentioned only about the village roads.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

96. The removal of certain buildings on the southern bank of the Commercial canal.

Mr. M. Chinnappa Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Alleppey) said that, on the southern bank of the Commercial canal, there were some buildings, which were very old and dilapidated and mostly roofed with cadjans. In consequence of the dirty condition of the buildings and also the great pressure of traffic on the main road, the place had become very much congested and insanitary and inconvenient for wheeled traffic. Similar buildings that existed on the northern bank of the canal were removed with special sanction, and the safety of the town was thereby increased. The presence of those buildings was a great hindrance to the proposed improvement of the Commercial canal. Replying to the Dewan, the Member said that some of the buildings were Mahomedan mosques; but as they were not regular mosques, there could be no objection to shift them to other places. He therefore requested the removal of the buildings at an early date.

The Dewan having invited the views of Mr. Shaik Mahomed Hamidani Thangal (Member, Nominated) on the proposal, the latter said that the Mahomedans had strong objection to remove any mosque, after it was once established in a place.

Mr. P. John Mathew (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) also rose and said that, on behalf of the merchants of Alleppey, he strongly objected to Mr. Chinnappa Pillai's proposal.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar will be asked to enquire into and report on the whole question.

97. The unsatisfactory state of sanitation in the town of Alleppey and suggestions for its improvement.

Mr. P. John Mathew (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that the sanitation of the town of Alleppey was in a very deplorable condition. The majority of people in the town, on account of the want of proper latrines, made use of the Commercial canal and both sides of the Vadai canal as latrines. The few dirty latrines, which had no proper fencing, were not being properly cleaned. The pail system, which was in use in the town, was opposed to one of the first principles of sanitation, as it kept the excreta adjacent to human dwellings for some time. All the refuse swept from the roads adjoining the Commercial and the Vadai canals were thrown into them. He suggested that large incinerators might be used. They should be placed in populous centres and efficiently worked without being in any way offensive or objectionable. The canal banks were a source of continuous nuisance, as they were being used for purposes of nature.

The peculiar position of the Darragh market and its filthy condition were the root of all the contagious diseases that broke out in the town. It was situated centrally and was closed on its four sides by numerous houses and shops. It was desirable to ask the Dewan Peishkar and the Sanitary Commissioner to make a thorough inspection of the place and report on the desirability or otherwise of removing the market to some other place.

During the out-break of small-pox and cholera and on such other occasions, the disinfection, done by the Alleppey Committee, was far from satisfactory. The great number of pariah dogs roaming about the town was a source of positive injury to the health of the town. The funds sanctioned for their destruction were not used for that purpose.

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